



## City Of Scottsbluff

### Annual Water Quality Report For January 1 to December 31, 2014

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the City Of Scottsbluff water system to provide safe drinking water.

**Para Clientes Que Hablan Español:** Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

For more information regarding this report, contact:

**JACK SATUR**  
308-630-6257

If you would like to observe the decision-making processes that affect drinking water quality, please attend the regularly scheduled meeting of the Village Board/City Council. If you would like to participate in the process, please contact the Village/City Clerk to arrange to be placed on the agenda of the meeting of the Village Board/City Council.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

#### **Source Water Assessment Availability:**

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) has completed the Source Water Assessment. Included in the assessment are a Wellhead Protection Area map, potential contaminant source inventory, vulnerability rating, and source water protection information. To view the Source Water Assessment or for more information please contact the person named above on this report or the NDEQ at (402) 471-6988 or go to [www.deq.state.ne.us](http://www.deq.state.ne.us).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

#### **Sources of Drinking Water:**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals

and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

The source of water used by City Of Scottsbluff is ground water.

#### **Contaminants that may be present in source water include:**

\* Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

\* Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

\* Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

\* Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

\* Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

#### **Drinking Water Health Notes:**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Infants, young children, and pregnant women are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using your tap water will clear the line of any lead that may have leached into the water while the line was idle. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the DHHS/Division of Public Health/Office of Drinking Water (402-471-2541).

The City Of Scottsbluff is required to test for the following contaminants: Coliform Bacteria, Antimony, Arsenic, Asbestos, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Cyanide, Fluoride, Lead, Mercury, Nickel, Nitrate, Nitrite, Selenium, Sodium, Thallium, Alachlor, Atrazine, Benzo(a)pyrene, Carbofuran, Chlordane, Dalapon, Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate, Dibromochloropropane, Dinoseb, Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, Diquat, 2,4-D, Endothall, Endrin, Ethylene dibromide, Glyphosate, Heptachlor, Heptachlor epoxide, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, Lindane, Methoxychlor, Oxamyl (Vydate), Pentachlorophenol, Picloram, Polychlorinated biphenyls, Simazine, Toxaphene, Dioxin, Silvex, Benzene, Carbon Tetrachloride, o-Dichlorobenzene, Para-Dichlorobenzene, 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1,1-Dichloroethylene, Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Dichloromethane, 1,2-

Dichloropropane, Ethylbenzene, Monochlorobenzene, 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, Trichloroethylene, Vinyl Chloride, Styrene, Tetrachloroethylene, Toluene, Xylenes (total), Gross Alpha (minus Uranium & Radium 226), Radium 226 plus Radium 228, Sulfate, Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Chlorodibromomethane, Bromoform, Chlorobenzene, m-Dichlorobenzene, 1,1-Dichloropropene, 1,1-Dichloroethane, 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Chloromethane, Bromomethane, 1,2,3-Trichloropropane, 1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane, Chloroethane, 2,2-Dichloropropane, o-Chlorotoluene, p-Chlorotoluene, Bromobenzene, 1,3-Dichloropropene, Aldrin, Butachlor, Carbaryl, Dicamba, Dieldrin, 3-Hydroxycarbofuran, Methomyl, Metolachlor, Metribuzin, Propachlor.

#### **How to Read the Water Quality Data Table:**

The EPA and State Drinking Water Program establish the safe drinking water regulations that limit the amount of contaminants allowed in drinking water. The table shows the concentrations of detected substances in comparison to the regulatory limits. Substances not detected are not included in the table. The state requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of this data may be older than one year. **MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level)** – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal)** – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**AL (Action Level)** – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level)** – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal)** – The level of disinfectant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**QRAA (Quarterly Running Annual Average)** – An ongoing annual average calculation of data from the most recent four quarters.

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile** – Represents the highest value found out of 90% of the samples taken in a representative group. If the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is greater than the action level, it will trigger a treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**N/A** – Not applicable.

#### **Units in the Table:**

**ppm (parts per million) = mg/L (milligrams per liter)** – One ppm or one mg/L corresponds to 1 gallon of water in 1,000,000 gallons of water.

**ppb (parts per billion)** – One ppb corresponds to 1 gallon of water in 1,000,000,000 gallons of water.

**pCi/L (Picocuries per liter)** – Radioactivity concentration unit.

**ug/L (micrograms per liter)** – Measurement of radioactivity.

Microbiological	Highest No. of Positive Samples	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source Of Contamination	Violations Present
COLIFORM (TCR)	In the month of November, 1 sample(s) were positive	MCL: Systems that Collect Less Than 40 Samples per Month - No more than 1 positive monthly sample	0	Naturally present in the environment	No

Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Range	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Likely Source Of Contamination
COPPER, FREE	2011 - 2013	0.332	0.0086 - 0.436	ppm	1.3	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing.
LEAD	2011 - 2013	5.49	1.02 - 24	ppb	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing.

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source Of Contamination
ARSENIC	09/03/2013	8.74	4.02 - 8.74	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
BARIUM	02/24/2014	0.0813	0.0506 - 0.0813	ppm	2	2	Discharge from drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
CHROMIUM	02/24/2014	6.79	3.96 - 6.79	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
FLUORIDE	02/24/2014	0.544	0.252 - 0.544	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Fertilizer discharge.
NITRATE-NITRITE	07/28/2014	9.64	1.92 - 9.64	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SELENIUM	02/24/2014	5.92	5.92	ppb	50	50	Erosion of natural deposits
URANIUM MASS	12/02/2014	31	17.3 - 31	ug/L	30	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts	Monitoring Period	Highest RAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source Of Contamination
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	10/1/2013 - 9/30/2014	5.54417	3.42 - 6.83	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM	10/1/2013 - 9/30/2014	23.7225	8.77 - 31	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source Of Contamination
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228)	02/06/2012	3.2	0.09 - 3.2	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
COMBINED URANIUM	07/14/2014	26.5	21.6 - 26.5	pCi/l	20	0	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. RADON & U	07/14/2014	33.1	25.8 - 33.1	pCi/L	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM-226	02/06/2012	0.2	0.09 - 0.2	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM-228	02/06/2012	3	0.7 - 3	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Water Quality Data	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	Secondary MCL
NICKEL	09/03/2013	0.00274	0.00199 - 0.00274	mg/L	0.1
SULFATE	09/03/2013	327	244 - 327	mg/L	250

During the 2014 calendar year, we had the below noted violation(s) of drinking water regulations.

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
No Violations Occurred in the Calendar Year of 2014			

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants during the 2014 sampling year. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by the EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help the EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. Below are the detected monitoring results from our wells and our distribution system. If you wish to see the full set of results, contact the person listed on the front page of this report.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring – DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM	Collection Date	Average Value	Range	Unit
CHROMIUM (TOTAL)	10/07/2014 - 10/15/2014	0.338	0.338	ug/L
MOLYBDENUM	10/07/2014 - 10/15/2014	3.641	2.093 – 5.028	ug/L
STRONTIUM	10/07/2014 - 10/15/2014	977.123	675.374 – 1449.016	ug/L
VANADIUM	10/07/2014 - 10/15/2014	5.695	2.197 – 13.496	ug/L
CHROMIUM-6	10/07/2014 - 10/15/2014	0.106	0.034 – 0.261	ug/L
CHLORATE	10/07/2014 - 10/15/2014	134.1636	99.71 – 180.047	ug/L

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring – WELL SITES	Collection Date	Average Value	Range	Unit
CHROMIUM (TOTAL)	10/07/2014 - 10/15/2014	0.282	0.228 – 0.359	ug/L
MOLYBDENUM	10/07/2014 - 10/15/2014	3.1779	1.823 – 5.015	ug/L
STRONTIUM	10/07/2014 - 10/15/2014	1139.311	647.113 – 1725.687	ug/L
VANADIUM	10/07/2014 - 10/15/2014	8.6694	2.078 – 14.157	ug/L
CHROMIUM-6	10/07/2014 - 10/15/2014	0.147	0.071 – 0.285	ug/L
CHLORATE	10/07/2014 - 10/15/2014	87.032	87.032	ug/L

**Additional Required Health Effects Language:**

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and kidney toxicity.